

Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project Newsletter

Spring 2022

Vol. 6

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) to restore habitat at the mouth of the Duckabush River. The project would reconnect the Duckabush River to adjacent wetlands by modifying local roads and elevating Highway 101 onto a bridge. The bridge would span the entire valley where the Duckabush River meets the Hood Canal, recreating rare habitat important to native fish and wildlife.

More project information can be found at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/duckabush>

Project Update

Project partners continue design phase activities. Design of the new 1,613 foot-long estuary spanning bridge is well underway. The new bridge will be supported by 7 piers placed in the estuary. The new bridge will have wider shoulders along the highway, and will include a re-designed intersection at Duckabush Road, and a left turn lane from northbound Highway 101 onto Duckabush Rd. The structure will be designed so that river flow can go anywhere within the floodplain without damaging the bridge.



Post-project rendering of the Duckabush estuary

Estuary restoration design is evaluating channel sizing to maximize habitat benefits while limiting damage to existing estuary vegetation and sensitive areas. The design team is awaiting results of soils analysis from samples collected last fall that will inform many aspects of the remaining project design. Design is anticipated to be completed in early 2023.

Recognizing the multiple benefits of this type of project to the community and environment, the state legislature recently provided \$25M towards the upcoming construction phase. Congressman Kilmer also assisted in securing \$1M in Federal funding towards the utility relocation needs of the project. The project team will continue to secure the remaining funds needed to proceed with construction. Once all funding is secured, construction is anticipated to be completed within 4 years.

Post-Project 3D Visualization

In order to demonstrate how the project will look once finished, we partnered with WSDOT to put together 3D visuals. These 3D visuals are based on preliminary designs and are approximations, but illustrate the scale of the project. To see more of the visuals, go to the WDFW project website and check out the short video about the project.



Rendering showing how wildlife will be able to pass under the new estuary spanning bridge

Volunteer Opportunity: Invasive Species Removal in the Duckabush Wildlife Area

Join Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) for a volunteer event to remove invasive species at the Duckabush River estuary! Thanks to wonderful volunteers, the past two clean up events removed thousands of pounds of tires, plastic, and garbage from the wildlife area. This year we are focusing on removing invasive weeds such as Scotch broom. Removing invasive species now will help limit the seed source and reduce the risk of invasives establishing after the project is constructed. We need volunteers (you!) to sign up to volunteer on May 7th or May 14th. Tools will be provided to volunteers.



Young volunteers

Who: all ages and open to the public (must pre-register)

When: May 7th and May 14th from 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Where: Public lands in the Duckabush Estuary (Duckabush Unit of the North Olympic Wildlife Area)

Why: Noxious weeds such as Scotch broom displaces native and beneficial plants. We need YOUR help to remove invasive species from the Duckabush wildlife area.

What to bring: Work gloves, sun protection, water, and snacks.

How: Pre-registration is required. Online at: <https://www.pnwsalmoncenter.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

For questions, contact Adrian by email: americorps3@pnwsalmoncenter.org, or call 360.275.3575 ext. 131.



Scotch broom in the Duckabush estuary

More Information

We expect to send a newsletter with project updates approximately 2-3 times per year or as important topics arise. **If you have questions, comments, or ideas about the project you can send them to the project contacts listed below.**

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